REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action of 15 Jan 2004 of Examiner Sathyanaraya R. Pannalla.

Claims 1-16 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

Drawings

The drawing Figures 1-21 have been objected to (1) as not having a descriptive textual label for each numbered element and for not showing structural details which are of sufficient importance to be described, and (2) as being informal.

Applicants propose that the following label descriptions be added to the drawings by table, and request that the Examiner confirm that such satisfies his objection:

Figure 1	None	
Figure 2	None	
Figure 3	URL	Uniform Resource Locator

	GWA	Global Web Architecture
	DFS	Distributed File System
	DB	Data Base
	AMNF	non-manager requisition approvers
	PAB	Public Address Book
	SAP	back end accounting system
	JS	Java Script
Figure 4	None	
Figure 5	None	
Figure 6	None	
Figure 7	None	
Figure 8	None	
Figure 9	None	
Figure 10	None	
Figure 11	None	
Figure 12	None	
Figure 13	None	
Figure 14	None	
Figure 15	ND	Network Dispatcher
	STG	Staging Table
	PRD	Production Table
Figure 16	ACL	Access Control List
	RCW	Requisition Catalog Web
Figure 17	GDG	Generation Data Group

Figure 18	None
Figure 19	None
Figure 20	None
Figure 21	None

Formal drawings were submitted to the Office on 17 June 2002, as evidenced by the attached copy of the Letter to Drawing Review Branch and Certificate of Mailing. A duplicate set as filed on that date is also enclosed, together with copies of Figures 3, 15, 16 and 17 marked up as proposed above for the approval of the Examiner.

Applicants request that the formal drawings be accepted, and that the proposed amendment to Figures 3, 15, 16, and 17 be approved.

Specification

The specification has been objected to for the use of trademarks, the incorporation of essential material by reference to a foreign application or patent, or to a

publication, and for lack of US Patent application serial numbers.

Applicants have amended the specification to provide the application serial numbers, to identify the software versions, and to properly use the trademarks as adjectives.

Applicants' attorney has searched the specification for incorporation by reference from publications or from foreign applications or patents, and has found none. The Examiner is requested to identify the material to which he objects.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for improper use of trademarks.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to remove the use of trademarks.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wiecha (US Patent 5,870,717) in view of Abrams (US Patent 6,151,608).

Claims 2-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wiecha in view of Anderson (US Patent 6,360,211).

Claims 12-14 have not been explicitly rejected in the body of the Office Action. However, in order to move prosecution forward, applicants interpret the material in the Office Action Summary to be an explicit rejection of claims 12-14 (without reference to the statute, or art references cited), and the material in paragraphs 24-26 of the Office Action to be an implicit rejection of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wiecha in view of Anderson.

Applicants traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103, and argue that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, which requires that the Examiner provides

1. one or more references

2. that were available to the inventor and
3. that teach
4. a suggestion to combine or modify the references,
5. the combination or modification of which would appear to be sufficient to have made the claimed invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The third and fifth elements of the prima facie case require that the references teach the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. In this case, applicants assert that the references do not present the teachings as characterized by the Examiner, and as required by the fourth element of the prima facie case do not contain the requisite motivation to combine absent reliance upon applicants' own teachings.

To reach a conclusion of obviousness under § 103, the Examiner must produce a factual basis supported by a teaching in a prior art reference or shown to be common knowledge of unquestionable demonstration. Such evidence is required in order to establish a prima facie case. The Examiner must not only identify the elements in the prior art, but also show 'some objective teaching in the prior art

or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead the individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references so as to render obvious applicants' claimed invention.

Applicants argue that when the claims are properly understood, and the references properly applied, the required prima facie case is not made.

With respect to claims 1 and 11, applicants note that the Weicha invention encompasses the scope of loading a catalog EDI into a DB2 table to be used by an online ordering system. Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims, however, goes beyond that, delving specifically into the ability to load that catalog into a staging area and allowing certain special users access to make carefully controlled changes to that data. In applicants invention, not all of the data is changeable, the structure of the staging table and the surrounding system actually controls what can be changed once the vendor has supplied the information. Applicants invention does receive a file from a supplier via EDI. However, the distinction with respect to Weicha and Abrams lies in what applications do with it.

Applicants traverse the reference by the Examiner to column 9, lines 2-10, for teaching "audit control". This teaching in Weicha is about what the end user is doing with his purchase request.

Further with respect to claims 1 and 11, applicants note that Abrams is loading data from a supplier into a temporary table, whose format is unimportant. In applicants case, the format of the staging table is very important, and matches that of the production table. Abrams also indicates that the only purpose of the temporary table is to allow mapping programs to then move the data into the production table. The purpose of the staging table in applicants invention is to allow manual intervention, update and validation before the data is moved into the production version of the table.

With respect to claim 2, Weicha is not clear about the extent of his catalog maintenance functions. It appears that catalogs can be grouped. Applicants invention controls access to specific catalogs by specific personnel, controls change sto the data sent by the vendor, and protects some data sent by the vendor from being changed. Anderson speaks only of saving data (in this case, invoice data) from a flat

file into an intermediary database. There is no mention made of data manipulation that is made to it while it is there, or how changes to that data are controlled.

With respect to claim 3, Weicha is vague in describing the extent of control which the system has over the administrators. The administration function which he describes in Col. 12, lines 16-23 involves maintenance of EDI vendor information, not of the content of the catalog from the vendor. Col. 5, lines 34-47 describe manipulation of images and text, but no controls over what can be modified and what is protected. Anderson does teach storing flat file data into a database table, but again, there is no mention of data manipulation that is made to it or how changes to that data are controlled.

With respect to claim 4, in Anderson, ACH PPD is a type of invoice information, not a flat file format. See Col. 3, lines 16-20.

With respect to claim 5, Anderson doesn't have a Col. 23, and the Examiner's reference to it is bewildering. This claim depends from claims previously distinguished, as also do claims 6 and 7.

With respect to claim 8, Weicha's reference at Col. 3, lines 10-18 is of the end user accessing the catalog from the production tables, not of the administrator accessing and modifying (in a controlled manner) the catalog while still in the staging tables. Weicha's reference at Col. 2, lines 4-19 do not indicate that the buyer (administrator) actually controls when the data is moved from the staging area into the production area, where it then becomes accessible to the end users for creating requisitions.

With respect to claim 9, Weicha is describing purchase order change and purchase order cancel EDI transactions. Applicants invention involves automatic electronic notification to the supplier when the catalog data provided is in an improper format, or when for some other reason it fails to load to the staging table.

With respect to claim 10, Weicha is describing the user's ability to update a purchase order. This is not the same as in applicants invention, which provides an administrative user (buyer) a level of authority to be granted to him that allows him to modify certain attributes of the catalog data.

With respect to claim 12, Weicha's teachings at Col. 9, lines 2-10 and Col. 8, lines 35-36, relate to the end user ordering from the catalog, not to the administrator (buyer) accessing the staging table.

With respect to claim 13, Weicha's reference at Col. 3, lines 10-18 is of the end user accessing the catalog from the production tables, not of the administrator accessing and modifying (in a controlled manner) the catalog while still in the staging tables. Weicha's reference at Col. 2, lines 4-19 do not indicate that the buyer (administrator) actually controls when the data is moved from the staging area into the production area, where it then becomes accessible to the end users for creating requisitions. Further, with respect to claims 13 and 14, in Anderson, ACH PPD is a type of invoice information, not a flat file format. See Col. 3, lines 16-20.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-16.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

D. G. Ruest, et al.

By

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Reg. No. 24,886

Date: 15 April 2004

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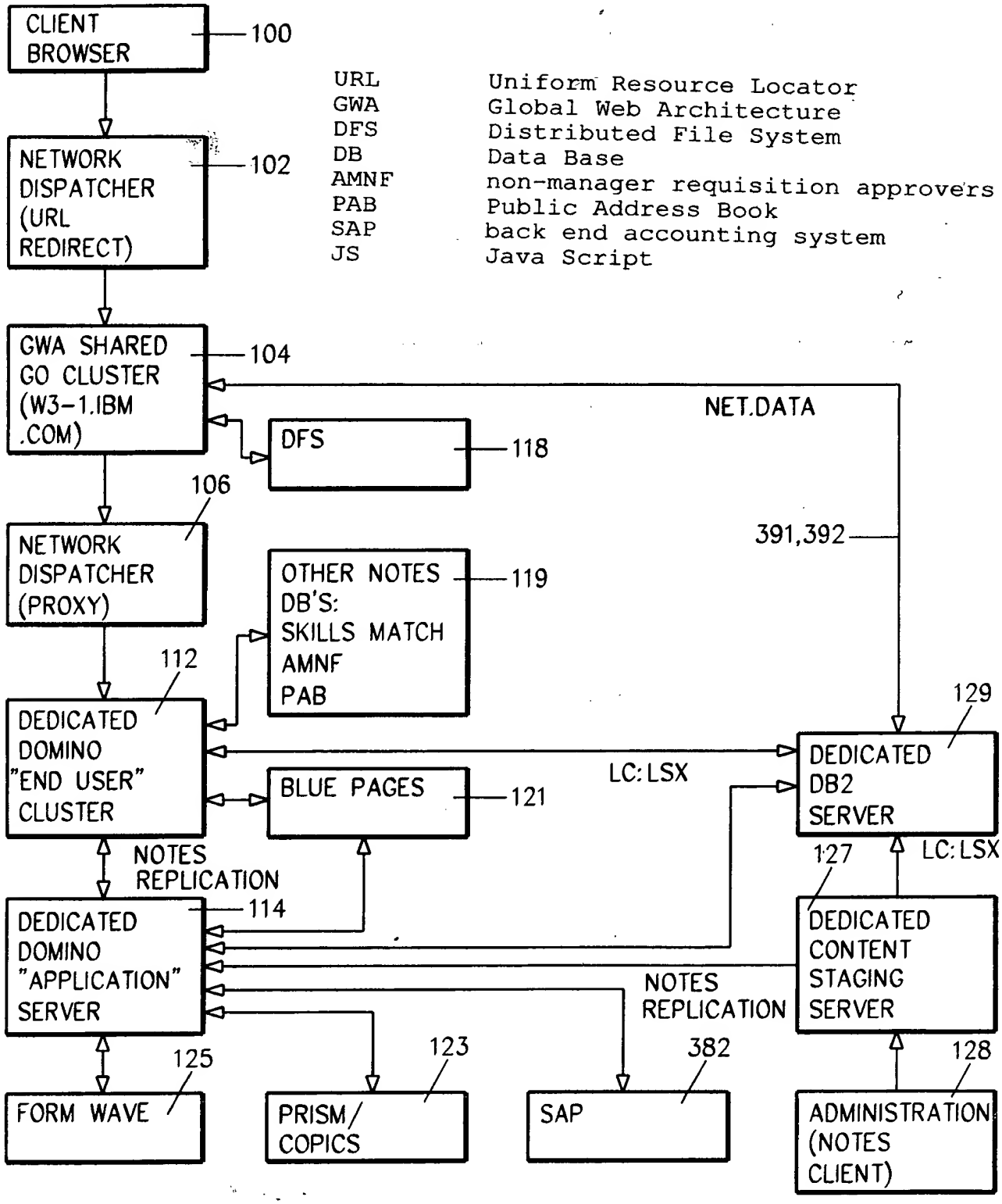
PROPOSED



URL	Uniform Resource Locator
GWA	Global Web Architecture
DFS	Distributed File System
DB	Data Base
AMNF	non-manager requisition approvers
PAB	Public Address Book
SAP	back end accounting system
JS	Java Script

FIG. 3

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PROPOSED

ND Network Dispatcher
STG Staging Table
PRD Production Table

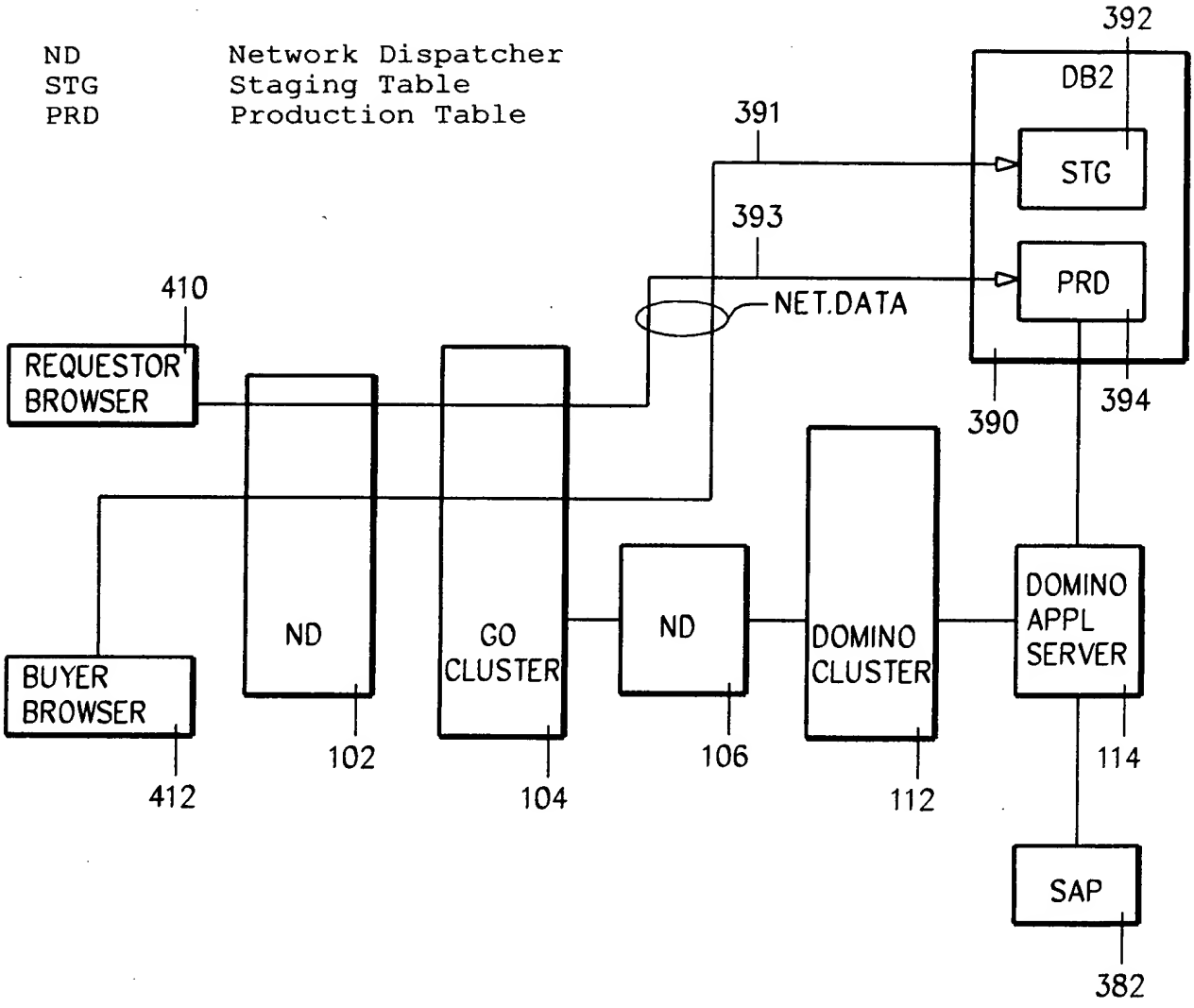

FIG. 15

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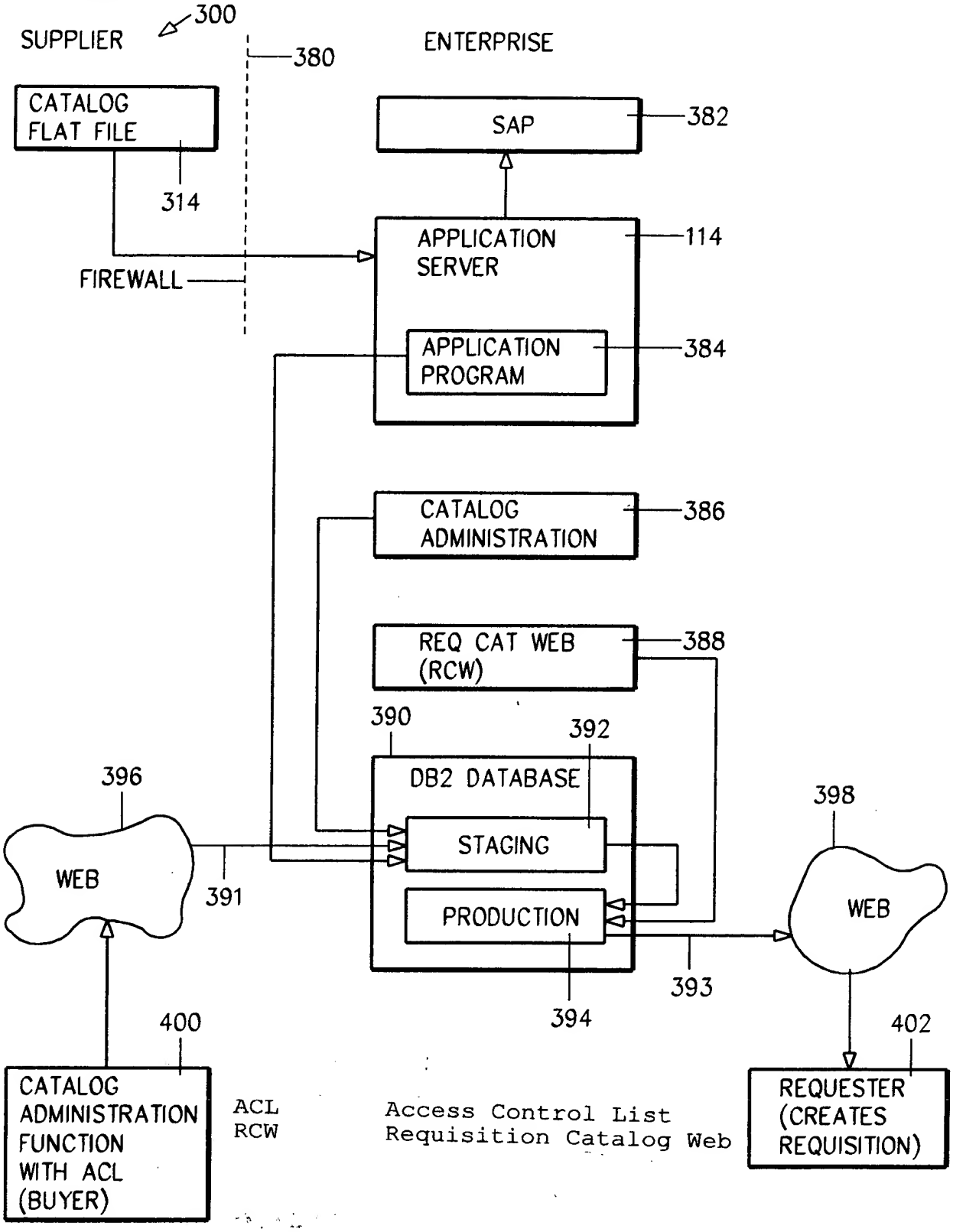

FIG. 16

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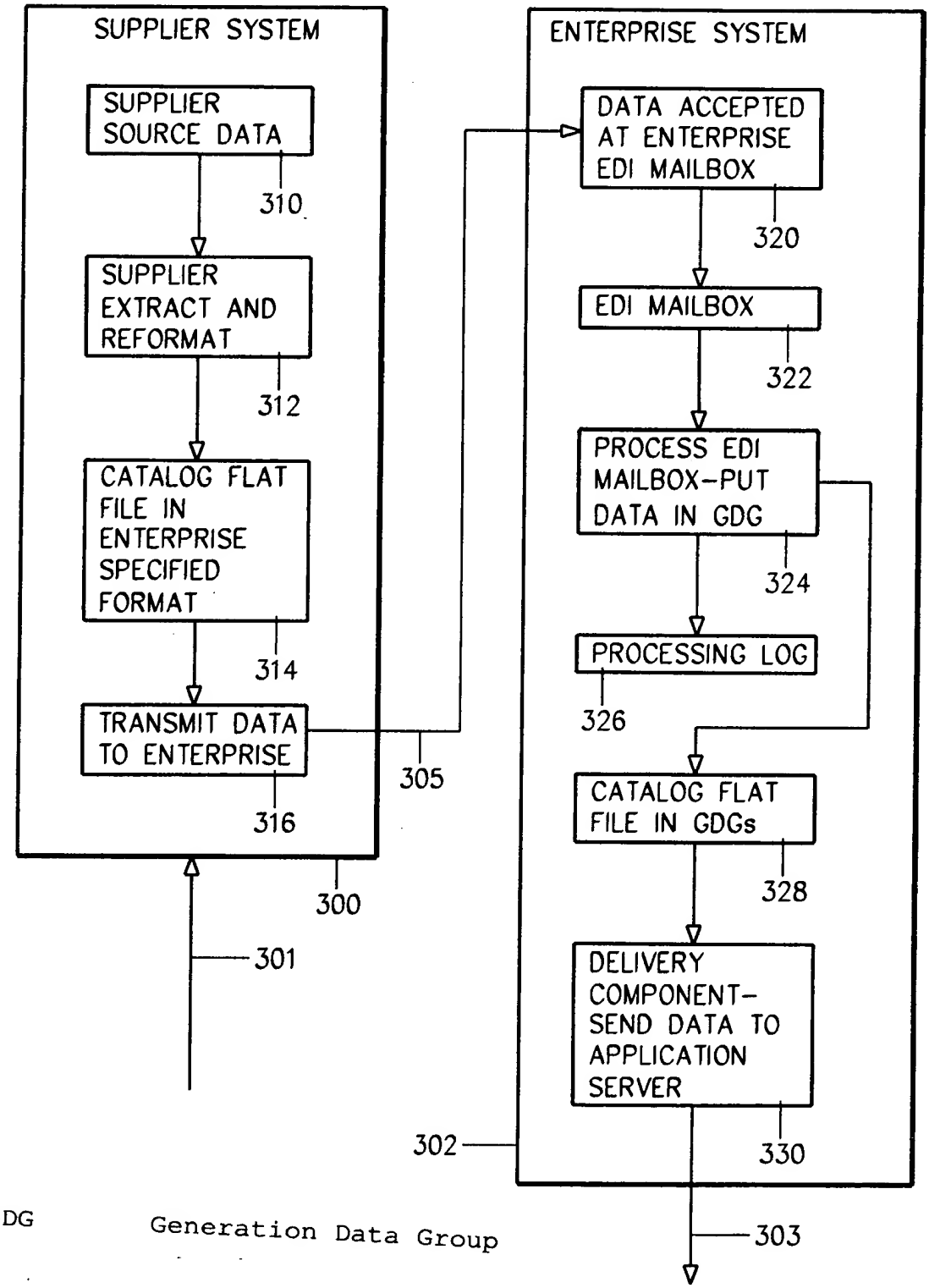

GDG Generation Data Group

FIG. 17